THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) As per the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 a person, who in the opinion of the Central Government, is qualified to judge the effect of a film on the public can be appointed as Member of the advisory pannels of the regional offices of CBFC. These may include politician cum actors among others.

TV and Radio Signals in the Border Areas

3200. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TV and radio signals of foreign countries in the border areas are more powerful than the signals of the Doordarshan and Akashwani; and

(b) if so, the step Government are taking to counter the powerful signals received from the foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The qulaity of Doordarshan and AIR signals in border areas is generally satisfactory. However foreign TV/Radio signals are receivable in some areas. Prasar Bharti has been assigning priority to expansion of TV/radio coverage in border areas in its expansion plans. At present, 50 AIR transmitters and 280 TV transmitters are under operation to provide satisfactory coverage in the border areas, which includes 92 TV transmitters set up under Special J&K Plan. In addition, 15 AIR transmitter projects and 34 TV transmitter projects are under implementation for expansion/improvement of TV/Radio coverage in the border areas.

For expansion and improvement of Doordarshan and AIR services in North East Region (including Sikkim) and Island Territories, Government has approved in principal implimentation of a Special Package. The Projects approved under the package are already under implementation.

Participation of Private Producers in the Production of Serials

† 3201. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Doordarshan DD-1 or DD-2 Metro have any scheme for the participation of private producers in the field of the production of the serials;

(b) if so the nature of the scheme and by when it is likely to be introduced; and

(c) whether any advertisement has been given in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir Prasar Bharati has informed that there is a Sponsorship Scheme for particiapation of outside producers for production of serials.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that the Scheme is already in operation and under this Scheme outside producers can apply for allotment of air time for sponsored programmes with reference to Doordarshan's advertisements.

(c) proposals as per the requirements of Doordarshan are invited from time to time from outside producers through advertisements in Doordarshan, radio and newspapers.

Prasar Bahrati has informed that advertisement was issued in all leaving newspapers on 19-6-2002 for DD-II and 07-08-2002 for DD-1 and also through Doordarshan and Radio.

Proposal for Punjabi News Bullation on DD

3202. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to start Punjabi News Bulletin on the lines of Urdu News on Doordarshan with coverage of Punjab State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan Kendra Jalandar is already telecasting news in Punjabi, covering the State of Punjab terrestrially and the whole country in satellite mode.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.